

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

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A 1. (Currently Amended) A method for converting text to concatenated voice by utilizing a digital voice library and a set of playback rules, the digital voice library including a plurality of speech items and a corresponding plurality of voice recordings wherein each speech item corresponds to at least one available voice recording, the method comprising:

receiving text data;

expanding the text data to form a sequence of text and pseudo words;

converting the sequence of text and pseudo words into a sequence of speech items in accordance with the digital voice library;

converting the sequence of speech items into a sequence of voice recordings in accordance with the set of playback rules;

generating voice data based on the sequence of voice recordings by concatenating adjacent recordings in the sequence of voice recordings[.];

wherein the plurality of speech items includes a plurality of phrases, and wherein converting the sequences of text and pseudo words further includes parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any phrases.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further comprises:

searching the text data for an abbreviation; and

expanding any abbreviation contained in the text data into at least one pseudo word.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further comprises:

searching the text data for a numerical suffix; and

expanding any numerical suffix contained in the text data into at least one pseudo word.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further comprises:

searching the text data for a telephone number; and

expanding any telephone number contained in the text data into at least one pseudo word.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further comprises:

searching the text data for a number that includes a comma; and

expanding any number that includes a comma contained in the text data into at least one pseudo word.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further comprises:

searching the text data for an Internet mail address; and

expanding any Internet mail address contained in the text data into at least one pseudo word.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further comprises:

searching the text data for an Internet Universal Resource Locator; and

expanding any Internet Universal Resource Locator in the text data into at least one pseudo word.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [8] 1 wherein the plurality of speech items includes a plurality of words, and wherein converting the sequence of text and pseudo words further comprises:

parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any words.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the plurality of speech items includes a plurality of syllables, and wherein converting the sequence of text and pseudo words further comprising:

parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any syllables.

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